

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT PO

SUBJ: SOARES ON FREEDOM

1. UPCOMING ISSUE OF ITALIAN WEEKLY EPOCA SCHEDULED TO CARRY RECENT BRIEF INTERVIEW WITH SOARES. EXCERPTS (INFORMAL EMBASSY TRANSLATION) FOLLOW.

2. ON FREEDOM OF THE PRESS. (EPOCA QUERY: WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY FREEDOM OF THE PRESS? EVERYONE ABSOLUTELY EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO WRITE WHAT HE WANTS?) SOARES: "OF COURSE.. I AM A SOCIALIST, I AM FOR THE REVOLUTION BUT I AM ALSO FOR FREEDOM. I HAVE ALWAYS SAID THAT IN MY STRUGGLE FOR SOCIALISM I SHALL NEVER SACRIFICE A VALUE WHICH I CONSIDER FUNDAMENTAL, THAT IS THE VALUE OF FREEDOM". (QUERY: DO EVEN THOSE AGAINST THE REGIME HAVE THE RIGHT TO EXPRESS THEIR OPINIONS? EVEN THE FARIGHT, THE FASCISTS?) SOARES: CERTAINLY. I THINK THAT THE RIGHT TOO HAS THE RIGHT TO SAY WHAT IT THINKS, IF THIS IS DONE ON THE BASIS OF RESPECT FOR THE LAW.

3. ON POLITICAL OPPPOSITION. "THE RIGHT HAS THE RIGHT TO EXIST POLITICALLY IF IT RESPECTS DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. OF COURSE I AM NOT TALKING OF THOSE WHO CONSPIRE AGAINST REPUBLICAN INSTITUTIONS. AND I BELIEVE THAT THE EXISTENCE OF AN OPPPOSITION IS ESSENTIAL TO THE GOVERNMENT (WHETHER UNCLASSIFIED

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OR NOT THE GOVERNMENT IS A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT). OPPPOSITION

AND ITS CRITICISMS ARE IN MY OPINION, OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE
FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROGRESS OF ANY COUNTRY."

4. ON PORTUGUESE SOCIALISM. "WE ARE BUILDING THE GROUNDWORK
FOR A TRUE SOCIALIST SOCIETY, ON THE BASIS OF FREEDOM, OF
POLITICAL DEMOCRACY. IN THIS SENSE IT IS AN ORIGINAL PATH;
AND IF THIS IS REALLY SO, IF FOR THE FIRST TIME WE SHALL BE
ABLE TO MAKE SOCIALISM COMPATIBLE WITH FREEDOM, THEN THIS
WILL BE A VALUABLE EXPERIENCE FOR ALL OF EUROPE.

5. ON COMMUNISM.

A) ITALIAN STYLE: "I BELIEVE THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY
IS A DEMOCRATIC PARTY WHICH RESPECTS OTHER PEOPLE'S FREEDOM
AND FINDS ITSELF IN AN AWKWARD POSITION BECAUSE OF THE STAND
TAKEN BY THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNISTS." "IF WE HAD IN PORTUGAL
A COMMUNIST PARTY LIKE THE ITALIAN ONE, AGREEMENT WOULD BE
MUCH EASIER. THE ITALIANS, WHO HAVE KNOWN FREEDOM FOR
30 YEARS AND AT THE SAME TIME WHO HAVE LIVED UNDER AND
KNOWN FASCISM, WILL NEVER LET FREEDOM BE LOST HERE IN THEIR
COUNTRY."

B) PORTUGUESE STYLE: "THE SOVIETS' (CHARGE THAT SOARES
IS A "COLD-WAR REACTIONARY") IS NOT SO MUCH A CONDEMNATION
AS A COMPLETELY UNJUST CRITICISM. I AM NEITHER ANTI-COMMUNIST
NOR ANTI-SOVIET BUT I BLAME THE PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY
FOR BEING STALINIST AND FOR NOT WANTING TO ADHERE TO THE
RULES OF DEMOCRACY." VOLPE

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